

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 5-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claims 3, 4 and 10-15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found at least at canceled claim 3. Thus, no new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Title Is Descriptive

The Office Action objects to the title for allegedly not being descriptive. By this Amendment, the title is amended. Withdrawal of the objection is thus respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0210534 to Swan et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3 and 4 are canceled, and thus the rejection of these claims is now moot.

Claims 1, 2 and 5-9 are not anticipated by Swan. Swan does not disclose "at least the interlayer dielectric being formed between the substrate and the electrode, the through-hole being formed in the interlayer dielectric, and surfaces of the interlayer dielectric and substrate in the through-hole being formed to have a level difference in a boundary area between the substrate and the interlayer dielectric," as recited in claim 1. Nowhere does Swan teach or suggest this feature.

Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Swan. Further, claims 2 and 5-9, which depend from claim 1, are also patentable over Swan for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1, as well as the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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